

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 6, 2000

LB 171

Senator Landis. I know that we're free to say whatever is on our mind on this floor. That's an appropriate part of the process. It's also incumbent upon us to say when we don't agree, and I don't agree with Senator Chambers. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Senator Coordsen, you had an amendment printed, Senator. I understand you want to withdraw.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Kristensen would move to return the bill, Mr. President. (FA396, Legislative Journal page 1626.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kristensen, to open on your motion to return.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I believe the opponents of the bill this morning have articulated their positions. You know, Senator Chambers, I'm going to go a different direction than everybody thinks I'm going to go at the moment. You talk about Orphan Annie. You talk about all these shows and TV programs that you've learned from. You had to get those from TV stations. And I kind of always thought that you might be the one who would stand up for the right to have the TV broadcast. But what this bill is all about, and I want to draw us back to what our purpose here this morning is, and it's whether you pass LB 171 or you don't. This is a federal mandate that is unlike the other federal mandates. It requires them to operate in a completely different manner. It is like the trucking industry being required to go to batteries. They don't get to use their same facilities and the same insides. What they rely on is the equipment, the equipment is what broadcasts those things. This state has sunk over \$40 million into complying with this mandate for public television, which also competes. That's far different than the \$400,000 that Senator Wickersham spoke about this morning. We've spent \$40 million of the taxpayers' money to go digital for our own. And maybe there are a couple of well-heeled